

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: AMERICAN EMBARGO AGAINST UGANDA

1. THROUGH ITS "DECISION TO IMPOSE A NEARLY TOTAL EMBARGO AGAINST THE IMPORT OF UGANDAN GOODS, BY THE U.S., THE AMERICAN SENATE HOPES TO STRANGLE UGANDA'S ECONOMY AND TO FORCE PRESIDENT AMIN TO LIBERALIZE HIS REGIME", COMMENTS EDITOR KIEFU BIWANDU IN KINSHASA WEEKLY ZAIRE AUGUST 21. HE SAYS THE MEASURE REFLECTS AMERICAN DISAPPROVAL OF THE UGANDAN PRESIDENT'S DOMESTIC AND MIDDLE EAST POLICIES.

2. MR. KIEFU WARNS THAT IF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION DECIDES AT THE SAME TIME TO ENCOURAGE AN INTERNATIONAL EMBARGO AGAINST UGANDA AS ASKED BY THE U.S. SENATE, THE WORLD COULD SEE ITSELF DIVIDED, ONCE MORE, INTO TWO OPPOSITE GROUPS: THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES WHICH WOULD SUPPORT THE EMBARGO AND THE DEVELOPING NATIONS WHICH WOULD STAND FOR "NONE-INTERFERENCE" INTO OTHER COUNTRIES' INTERNAL AFFAIRS. THE EDITOR ADDS: "UGANDANS BELIEVE THEY COULD SURVIVE SUCH AN EMBARGO BECAUSE OF CENTRAL BANK RESERVES, DIVERSIFICATION OF FOREIGN MARKETS AND EFFICIENCY OF NEWLY-CREATED NATIONAL ENTERPRISES."

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3. COMMENTARY CONCLUDES BY NOTING THAT EMBARGO HAS BEEN A "TERRIBLE WEAPON" WHEREVER IT HAS BEEN USED, AS IN RHODESIA, FOR EXAMPLE, AND WOULD CERTAINLY DAMAGE THE ECONOMY. BUT THIS DAMAGE, MR. KIEFU WRITES, WOULD CERTAINLY BE MOST SEVERELY VISITED ON INNOCENT PERSONS: "ONCE MORE, THE LARGE INNOCENT MASSES -- THE SMALL FARMERS WHO DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN POLITICS -- WOULD BE

HARD HIT." ITEM
DUAMS

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